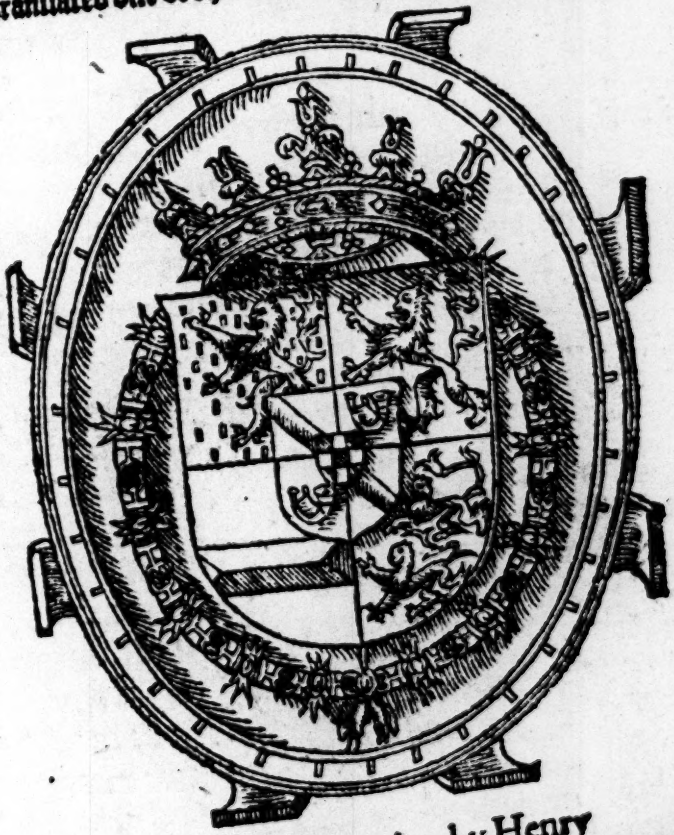
AN ANSVVER

And true discourse to a certain Letter lately sent by the Duke of Alba (in maner of a pardon) to those of Amsterdam, to be by them conueyed and distributed vnto the other Townes in Hollande.

Set forth by certayn true louers of their native Countrey, namely desirous to liue vnder the due obeylance of the King of Spayne, according to the old customes and priuileges of their said Countrie: Faithfully translated out of the Dutch into English, by T.W.



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To the Reader.

HAuing of late diuers & sundrie times bene vrged to write, declare, & put in light the iuste occasions, mouing vs to put our armes, & to stand in defence against certain our straūge and forraine enimies: of whose force, vniust, and cruell tyranny, we haue also giuen to vnderstand al Christiā Princes and Potentates, nations and coūtries. And hauing also sufficiently answered and put to silence such iniurious and slaunderous Bookes, writings, and libels, as our said aduersaries had put in light, whereby they thought & sought to make vs odious vnto al kinds of people: our hope and conclusion was that thei wold haue once abstained from their slaunderous writings, seeing it so small ly serued their purpose: which so a long time they seemed to vse. But at the last, perceyuing y since their tirannous regimēt began, y longer, y more it became lothsome vnto all people: and that there was small hope to obteyne to their

former authoritie, force, and regiment, by force of armes, do now returne to their accustomed prancks, and would faine vnder pretence of pardons, and letters of fauour (through false accusations) bring vs in hatred with all men, and by vntrue persuasions seeme to purge their owne faults, thereby alluring the people vnto them, and so by littel and littell reduce the townes & countries reuolted from them, to their vile yoke of seruitude.

And to that intent haue they of late put forth a certaine letter vnder the name of the Duke of Alba, offering therby pardon and forginenes vnto the said townes of al their trãsgressions (as they term it) cõditionally, that they shoulde willingly submit themselues to their obeysance and subiection. Which letters were by meanes of them of Amsterdam dispersed into diuers townes in Holland.

Notwithstanding, we are assured sufficiently that no person of vnderstanding & discretion, much lesse townes & countries, wilbe moued by these their cautelous and most false and slaunderous Bookes, to returne from the free and loyall obedience & seruice

To the Reader.

ruice of our most natural Lord and King
e kyng of Spaine, vnder whom ẏ Prince
f Orange beareth the gouernement, to
e shamefull and accursed seruitude of a
raunge generation: yet to the intent to
ake the trueth manifest vnto all men, &
detect the false and subtile practises and
ules of our enimies, we coulde not but
nswere vnto the sayde letter. Desi-
ing al such as regard the common wealth
their countrie, the preseruation of his
ife and children, his life and goods, to
ead this with indifferencie, and not to
uffer themselues to be seduced by the false
opositions of our sworne enimies, but
ather with all their power to aduaunce ẏ
ustnesse of our cause & deliuery of our cou-
trie, from the vnsupportable yoke of this
raunge nation.

Don Fernando Aluarez

of Toledo, Duke of Alba, Lieutenant, Gouernour and Captain Generall.

TRuſtie and welbeloued, it is well inough knowne that the kyng our ſouereign Lord is one of the myldeſt and moſt gracious Princes that may bee found, yet haue the Rebells endeuored themſelues with lies and falſe perſuaſions, to perſuade diuers townes to the contrary, putting a doubt in their heads, to the intent to ſeduce and allure them from the obedience of his maieſtie, as they haue done: wheras in dede (as commonly the trueth will not remaine vnknowen) it hath appeared what hath bene done with the townes of Gelderland, Friesland, Ouerriſſell and Vtrecht, which were reuolted, who of their free accords vncompelledhaue put themſelues vnder the obedience of his maieſtie, who hath not touched any one Burges or inhabitant of the ſame, but hath ſuffered him to remayne in his former eſtat, enioying and poſſeſsing their owne goods, as they did before their reuolt. But hath vſed rigor onely againſt ſuch townes as haue offered weapons and ſtoode at defence: And the like grace as afore-

ſayde

yde wee intende to extende towardes all
ch other Townes in Hollande as in lyke
der will ſubmit them ſelues to the obey-
nce of his Maieſtie without attending the
ming of his armie, which we in the name
d behalfe of his Maieſtie, do firmely pro-
ſe and aſſure by theſe preſentes: whereof
e thought good to aduertiſe you, to the
tent ye giue knowledge to the Townes
hom ye hope wilbe reduced: admonishing
em further to haue a regarde to this occa-
on offered, not ſlacking the benefit there-
f, & to return to the obeiſance which they
we to the Kings Ma. their naturall Prince
nd Lord, whoſe grace and fauour they with
ll the Burgeſſes & Inhabitants of the ſame,
o preſenting them ſelues within xv. dayes
fter the receipt of your notice and inſinu-
tion, ſhall receyue, without thinking on or
alling to remembrance any matters paſt:
whereof ye may firmely aſſure them on our
behalfe, and wee promiſe you by theſe our
letters by vs ſubſigned, that ſuch ſhalbe per-
formed and accomplished without default
or contrauention. Shewing them further,
how greatly they erre, if they think to with-
ſtand the Kings power, and what euill ſuc-
ceſſe it will haue if they obſtinately perſiſte

and

and will trye his Maiesties power and force
Trustie and welbeloued, the Lord bee wyt
you. VVritten in Nymmeghen the x. da
of Februarie 1572. after the style of th
Court, Signed F. A. Duke de Alba: An
lower was written Beytij. The superscrip
tion was as followeth. To our truftie an
welbeloued the Borrowmaisters, Schepens
and Rulers of the towne of Amsterdam.

Collected and conferred with the true and originall copie. By me VV. Pieters, Secretarie of Amsterdame.

An answere to the letter lately sent by the Duke of Alba, (written in maner of a pardon) to those of Amsterdam, and to be by thē conueyed to all the Townes there about.

THE confidence and assured persuasion that we haue alwayes had and yet haue of the kings naturall disposition, hath besides many other weightie reasons

sons and considerations moued vs, that we can not ascribe or impute this vnreasonable and tyrannous regiment, the open subuersion of all good customes, rightes, vsances, priuileges and liberties of ỹ towns and whole Countrie, vsed by a straunge Nation, now of late, cõtrarie to the Kings promises, letters, and othe, by mere force brought into the same, vpon the Kings Maiestie. For seeing we haue effectually found him a louer of his subiects, a mild bearer of the complaintes and cryes of the poore and suppressed, a tutor of the iust, and a defendour of the liberties and rightes of the cõtrie. How can wee then beleeue by any meanes, that he of his own free will, should permit (much lesse commaund) that these his naturall base Countries should thus pitifully be suppressed, and by violence of a straunge Nation, brought to euerlastinge subuersion and ruine? For at the first, not being conquered by the sword, but through friendly alliance and agreement first ioyned with the famous house of *Austria*, and afterwards with the Kingdomes of *Spayne*, and so from time to time haue vsed their entire affection and faithfull seruice, aswell to-

towards his Maiestie, as also to his moste noble Auncestors, with singular industrie and diligẽce. Namely in the last warres in *France*, it hath manifestly appeared, wherin they neither spared charges nor paynes: but to the maintenãce of the same, in short space leuied iiij. C. millions of Golde, and likewise in all other matters, declared towards his Maiestie all due obedience. Also his Maiestie hath againe at al times shewed a Fatherly and benigne disposition towards the said Countries. Howe could he then haue stopped his eares from the cryes and lamentations of his poore and true subiectes? Or how could he shut his eyes and not behold the lasciuious and wilfull dealings of a straunge Nation: or his hart be shut vp from hauing compassion ouer such a miserable destructiõ of his Townes and Countrie, so florishing and prospering at that time, as no land in Christẽdome more. Where as the States of the whole lande, aswell in generall as particular, yea the chiefest of the Nobilitie and Lordes themselues with humble Supplications, Remonstrances, Ambassades and many other meanes, haue obediently requested to be

hard

hard indifferētly, and to be releaſed of ſuch tyrannicall yoke. No certainly, we know and beleeue that our King of nature is the moſt gratious and mercyfulleſt Prince that may be found. But ſeeing we know this, we conclude reſolutely, that this is not his doing nor will, which by the *Albaniſh* faction hath of late ben done, but they giue the King to vnderſtand ſlanderous tales by them falſely deuiſed, keeping him faſte in Spaine, to the intent he ſhould rule accoꝛding to their appetit, abuſing his name, ſeale, and blankes at their pleaſure, giuing out commaundements in his name ſuch as beſt ſerue foꝛ their purpoſe: which thing is ſo plaine and notoꝛious, as no man is of ſo ſimple vnderſtanding and iudgement, which doth not ſee, yea feele it. Foꝛ they perceyuing about vi. yeares paſt, the Nobilitie and Gentlemen of the countrie, to take to hart the ſtate of the ſame, preſenting Requeſts to be diſmiſſed from the Inquiſition and tyrannie of the new Biſhops, then could they beginne to ſay, that to the Kinges naturall good inclination towards his ſubiects, and their good obedience, great woꝛong was offered: as who would ſay, it

was not the Kings mind nor pleasure that his owne Landes should bee charged with such a tirannicall seruitude as the Inquisition is, & that he never thought it, which thei published vnder the Kings letters and seale, which they sent not onely vnto certaine townes and congregations, but likewise to certaine of the chief Lordes and Nobles of the Lande. Then within a short whyle after (thinking the time fit to serue their turne) they published new Letters & Edictes in the kings name, expressely to the contrarie: wherein his Maiestie willed and streightly commaunded that the new Bishoppes, the Counsell of *Trent*, and Inquisition should be planted, vppon payne of his extreame displeasure. Within a whyle after, they considering a great alteration like to happen, and some commotion towards amongest the people, not thinking them selues sufficiently strong, they once ageyne called in the same and in the kings name made a new agreement, confirming it vnder his Seale. But within a whyle after (beinge prouided of a power) the Kyngs letters vnder his great seale, was by them broken and violated, and the com-

mons

mons charged with new othes and tares. Then began the Gallowes, scaffoldes, and poles, to be erected, the swordes whetted, and the fiers kindled, and then they began to murther, burne, and hang, all the kyngs true subiects without end or measure: yea the most noblest Lordes of the countrie were forced to flee or to be murtherid. Now wel knowing that they kyng hath no pleasure in these doings, that his true subiects should thus vniustly and tirannously bee handled, as he himselfe hath often declared, and as we are fully certified, do therfore (not against our kyng, but against certain presumptious straungers, which haue aduaunced themselues to inuade our country without right or reason,) take the sword in hand to defend and deliuer our bodies from their bloudie swords, our goods from their gryping hands, & our wiues and daughters from their vnchast desires, knowing therby for certaine, that we do our kyng here in both good and faithfull seruice: the truth wherof being vprightly related vnto him, we hope he wil take in good part. Therfore we do not esteeme our selues for rebels, as this writing doth vniustly charge vs, but

the Kyngs true and faithfull seruants, and so wil remain to the death, seeking nothing more than to defend his heritage from the execrable tiranny of straungers, so as the same be not compelled to give themselues to any reuolting or Rebellion. We also denie that which they further alleage. That we with lies and false persuasions seeke to rayse a slaunder vppon the Kyng, to the states and commons of the countrie, thereby to allure his subiects from his obedience, & drawe them to vs. Undoubtedly any reasonable person, may easely consider this to be a false accusation, as all the other are wherewith they burthen vs, and that they themselues are culpable of the same: being manifest, that they haue alwayes wrought with open lies and false persuasions to set these countries at debate with ỹ Kyng, by false accusations, therby seeking occasion to inuade the land, and so to bring it vnder their subiection. This is easely to be considered out of the requeſt for ix. yeres which in anno 1552. the King himselfe did propone vnto the generall states of the lãd within the towne of *Valencia:* namely that the meanes wherby to maintain ỹ warres

against

gainſt Fraunce any longer were at an
nd, and that his maieſtie knew not how to
leuie any more money. Deſiring therfore
that they would appoynt ſome amongeſt
them, which were expert in the ſtate of the
countrie, to find ſome meanes to ſuccour ỹ
matter. Wherupon an aſſembly of their
Deputies was kept at *Bruxels*, where after
many deliberations it was finally conclu-
ded, ỹ to the King was graunted ỹ ſume of
eight hunderd thouſand Gilderns a yeare,
for the ſpace of nine yeares, whereof forth-
with ſhould be leuied vppon the ſale of rẽts
xxiij. hunderd thouſand Gilderns for the
mayntaining and paying of xxiij. thouſand
footemen, and eight thouſand horſemen,
whereof the one third parte to be ſtraun-
gers, and the reſt inhabitants of the coun-
trie, and that for the ſpace of vj. monethes:
ouer and beſides twentie ſhippes of warre
for ſeuen monethes. And further according
to the particular inſtructions therof made,
to bring ỹ ſame to effecte, there were cer-
taine neceſſaries ſpecified, without which
it had bene hard to perſuade the common
people. Namely, that the ſtates of the land
ſhould haue the adminiſtration of the mo-

ney

ney in their hands, and pay the Souldiers accoꝛding to the inſtructiõs which ſhould be deliuered vnto them on the Kyngs behalfe: and further they to appoynt certaine perſons which ſhould haue the muſtering of the Souldiours. This deuiſe did pleaſe his maieſtie meruaylous well, and he hartely thancked them foꝛ the good aſſiſtance and inclination they ſhewed towardes him. Which afterward (as appeared) was the greateſt and notableſt ſeruice which might haue bene done to his maieſtie and the cõtrie, foꝛ therby his maieſtie in the extremitie of his neceſſitie was ſo holpen, ẏ the Kyng of Fraunce was greatly amazed at it. This was the onely occaſion whereby not onely goodly victoꝛies againſt the enimie were obteyned, but likewiſe that in ẏ end a peace was concluded to the great aduauntage and honour of his Maieſtie and countries. All this notwithſtanding, there were not a few amongſt the Spaniardes, (Whoſe example ſome of other countries followed) who ſought by al meanes to perſuade the Kyng, that this kind of oꝛder did greatly extend to the abaſement and diſhonour of his Maieſtie, foꝛ that the ſtates (as

they

they pretended) did hereby sthole the King, and wold limit and set him orders at their pleasures: which by no meanes was to be suffred, for that ỳ same did tend to an open rebellõ with many other like persuasions which they by night and daye propound to the King, to the intent to incense him against the lowe countries. Whereas their pretence was none other than to satisfie their insatiable auarice, & greeued them ỳ they were barred from the handling of the money. This notwithstanding they haue since attributed the miserie of this Countrie, which through their unreasonable tyranny is now happened, unto the request of nine yeares. So as it is easely to be perceiued by them are those which w their sayned tales and false persuasions haue gone about to set debate and strife betweene the King and his faithfull subiects: which also did long before sufficiently appeere, in the time of the most noble Emperors *Charles*, for to the intent they might come to their pretence, and bring into the Countrie such placards under pretence of Religion, wher by they might be Masters of our goods and substances, yea ouer our liues, wyues and

children, they with false illusions did persuade the good Emperour, that the doctrine of *Martin Luther* did condemne all iurisdictions both spirituall and temporall, and did giue free libertie to all men to robbe, murther, and burne, and euery one to liue at his free libertie: as is expressed in the Emperours placard published at *Worms* in Anno 22. and since in these lowe countries. Through occasion whereof, so much innocent blod hath bene shed in these lowe countries, as it is to be verified, that since that time to this day, there hath bene executed for their conscience sake, some with the sword, gallowes, fyre, and water, aboue one hundred thousand persons, all vnder pretence that they were followers of such peruerse doctrine as in the sayd placard is inuented. Who seeth not than openly that they with manifest lies and open detraction do seeke to destroy and bring all things vnder their subiection? Haue we not also seene of late in the proponing of the tenth petition, how they haue helped themselues with false practises? For when they perceyued that they could not persuade the states and the Deputies of the townes to condiscend, they

declared

declared they saiwe euidently that it was not to be done, and therfore was it not their intent effectually to leuie the tenth penie as they had proponed: but yet to the intent they should shew their dutiful affection and inclination towardes his Maiestie, they requested that it might be graunted vppon condicion, notwithstanding that it shoulde neuer be leuied nor put in execution. And hereof haue they giuen to the states of *Henaulde* and some others, further actes and letters. This notwithstanding, they haue since by a meere force vrged the execution of the tenth penie, bycause they had written to the King of Spaine (as they said) that the same was graunted. These are the false & double pranckes, which they vse and seeke, therby to bring this coūtrie into the kynges displeasure, and so finally to vtter ruine. Yea we see that they in this their letter can not forget their wicked trickes and falsities, saying that we seeke to bring the townes from the true obediēce of his Maiestie, and to allure them to vs as wee haue done. They them selues doe certainely knowe that neither our meaning nor intēt is such, nor neuer was, as appereth, by all our

writings, reasons, protestations, yea by al our actes, workes and procedings. Yea, so farre it is from vs, that there is not one towne or village, no not one man to bee found, which is escaped from these strange tyrants, but he doth acknowledge the king for his Lord, and wilbe obedient vnto him in all respects, and likewise will spend his life & goods in his seruice, yea with a more feruentie than euer before: which they shalbe readie to shew effectually, so sone as it shall please the Kyngs Maiestie to discharge them of this insupportable yoke and tirannie. So that it is moste euident that we haue not diuerted any townes frō the Kyngs obeysance, nor seeke to doe, but to the contrary, they are those that vnder the pretence and shadowe of the kyngs name, doth practise to get them from the kynges obeysance into theirs, to the intent to exercise their force and tiranny ouer them.

Do we not see how they haue brought a great part of Sapine from the kyngs obedience vnder the subiection of the inquisition? So that they alone do rule and gouerne ouer Villages, Lordships, townes, and Countries, without acknowledging

the

the kyng: Yea they haue already so played their partes within the kyngdome of Spaine, that neither burgesse, commoner, nor noble man, no not the king himselfe, dare do any thing against the authoritie & force of the Inquisition. They haue their Courtes, their Officers, Promoters, Serieants, Spies, Traitors, and Familiars, which will be subiect neither to the kings nor their countries iurisdiction, in so much that they are esteemed and feared more thã the king: like as hath appeered sufficiently by some great personages not necessary to be named, and yit daily doth among the noble men and burgesses, whom they daily apprehend & put to death, without hauing regard to the kings superiozitie or custome of the land. This is the gouernment which they would faine bring into this country, the which bicause we withstand, we are termed rebelles, as if we did withstand our king. Hereby they giue openly to vnderstand, that they seeke to ascribe the kingly name vnto themselues: knowing wel that we haue not stirred against the king, but against their outragious tiranny, which we will maintaine so long as one drop of

blod remaineth in vs.

And yet further doe they proceede with their Spanishe prankes, rehearsing here some Townes which they (to get them the more credit) haue left vnspoiled, alleadging that they haue spared all those which haue offered no defence, concluding thereby that to all those which would willingly giue themselues vnder their subiection (which they terme the Kings obeysance) no harme should be offered. Nowe, it appeareth euidently, that all the Townes (in this Letter comprehended) haue already sufficiently declared, what their meaning and intent is, namely to withstand the tirannie of these blod suckers, and that to the vttermost: and to that intent did willingly receyue garrisons of Souldiours: but being forsaken of those garrisons, and being not able any longer to resist, the Burgeses did surrender themselues into the handes of those whom they toke for their enemies. Haue nowe the *Spaniards* of remorse and pitie spared those Townes, as they would fayne make vs beleeue? What occasion had they thē before or since to set on fire so many faire places and Villages in the Countrie?

rie? who neuer hurt them: and although they would yit could not offer any resistēce. Why haue they chased so many a poore mā out of his possession, destroying his house & grounde? Yea, what occasion had they to shewe themselues so cruell and furious against the Towne of *Machlin*? sparinge neither Churches nor Cloisters, but made hauoke of all to the vttermost. Did not they of *Machlin* surrender them selues so sone as the garrison was departed out of the Towne? it is manifest yes. And that which is more, they neuer would suffer any alteration of Religion, nor yit permit any preaching of the Gospell. What hath all this profited them against the gryping handes of these mercifull giuers of pardō? The like hath happened to *Dirmonde* and *Audenaerde*, whom they first put to rauisone, and yit afterwards vtterly spoiled and sacked. Ouer and besides this, the Towne of *Mons* in *Hennuble* was taken in by force: the Commons whereof would neyther assiste nor helpe the Souldiours to defende the Towne against the *Albanistes* (which since they haue repented) nor yet would permit any alteration in Religion.

Which

Which Towne was afterwards agayne surrendred by composition into the Duke of *Alba* his handes, vppon promise by other letters, that none of the Burgeses should be harmed: which promise notwithstanding, whē they were entred, and al things as they would haue it, hanged vp a number of them, and God knoweth howe the rest shall spēde.

And here in *Hollande*, how haue they vsed them of *Rotterdam*, who neuer were reuolted from them, nor yit had commenced any alteration either of religion or government? yea neuer thought of it: and yit at their ioyfull, haue they not murthered the Burgesses in great number, contrary to their promise? And afterwards at their departure out of the towne, had not they concluded to set it on fire, the most part of the being departed? to which purpose they had prouided a great deale of straw and other stuffe, and would haue brought it to passe in deede, if the Bailise and other good Burgesses had not letted them, who perceiuing themselues to be the stronger party, began to take some courage, & to withstand them.

Note further I pray you what faith or credite

credite is to be giuē to their promise which they vowe so surely, as maye be seene by the horrible murther committed by these bloudie hounds at *Naerden* neare vnto *Harlem:* where vppon like promise made (as aforesayd) the Burgesses of the Citie suffered them to enter, vppon hope of safety of life and goodes. The Spaniardes being entred, caused the Borowmaster and the commōs to resort to a certaine great house standing on the market place, vnder pretence to sweare them to be true to the king. The poore simple people hauing dispossessed themselues of their armour and weapons, comming to ỹ place appointed, were there like a sort of Lambes most cruelly murthered, in such sort as few escaped. One *Cornelius Gisselbert* being then Borowmaster, was murdred by ỹ hāds of ỹ Duke of *Albaes* owne son, & many of their daughters they rauished in presence of the dead carcases. Not contented with this, they ranne to the other Borowmasters house, where finding him sicke in his bead, murthered him. Besides this they spared not so much as the poore impotent persons that they found in the hospitall, with other most execrable

deedes, as hanging vp of men by the priuie members, and women by their brestes. &c. Which outragious crueltie there committed was (as they themselues confesse) ỳ occasion of their euill successe at *Harlem*, alleaging the wordes of Iudas, *Peccaui, tradens sanguinem iustum*. And a certaine Spaniard taken before *Harlem*, before his death confessed, they thought to haue done the like at *Harlem*.

These things considered, is there any to be found so foolish and madde, that would giue credite to their wordes: and suppose with himselfe, that they haue spared the townes for pitie and holinesse? Whereas it is euident, that such Townes as at their first entrie they did not altogither spoyle & ransacke: haue afterwardes bene so burthened and raunsomed as men haue bene forced to pay three times the vallue of their houses and goods. And now they declare, that they do intend to shew the like grace as is afore said, vnto the other townes in *Holland*, which henceforth wil of their owne accord yeeld themselues to their obeysance. Certainly the grace wilbe great that they will shew, they will for a time dissemble

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the maker and loke through the fingers, vntill such time as they shalbe maisters of the Townes, and then at their pleasure will apprehend and lay hold sometimes of one dosen here, somtimes of another dosen there, of the chiefest and substantialest, and as they see opportunitie cause the to be hanged vp: which will be thought by them a singular grace in so eschaping from being burned aliue. And so hauing all the other Townes likewise vnder their subiection, their crueltie will then first begin: for then will they build Bulwarkes and Castels in all firme townes, and begin to take and apprehend the pore Burgesses by heapes, sending some with Galleyes into Spaine, some to be sold as slaues, other to be hanged on trees and Gallowes, and so vsed as a sort of sheepe brought to ỹ shambels. Then followeth the displacing of Magestrates & rulers, taking away of priuileges, deuiding the gouernment amongst Spaniards and Italians, bringing in the bloudie counsell, and Inquisition, which is ten tymes worse than it hath bene vsed in Spaine, exacting the twentie, and the tenth, yea the fifth and the third penie, and so fulfill their

appetites vppon our goods, yea, with our wyues and daughters, to conclude to bring the whole countrie vnder the miserablest slauerie that euer hath bene heard of. This sure is the grace that they of their meere mercy thinke to vse, for what grace or mercy is there otherwise to be loked for at their hands, if they should become victorious ouer ỹ cõtrie as ouer their enimies, & recouer those townes which haue reiected their yoke: seeing they haue vsed such cruelticie, outrage & insolentie in those townes, which at the first haue as frendes receiued them, and shewed them all friendshippe, helpe and assistaunce. Enquire of ỹ townes of *Maestriche*, *Shertoghenbosch*, *Wreche*, *Tourney*, *Valencien*, *Lyle*, and other more where they haue lyen in garrison, what grace they haue there extended towardes the commons of the same: And whether there be any kynd of outrage, insolentie, spite or crueltie to be deuised, which there hath not bene vsed: So as many of their commons haue in great nombers bene pitteously murthered, as within the townes of *Lyle*, *Valencien*, and *Tourney*, hath notoriously

ssily ben seene, and would haue set on fire and spoiled diuers of the notablest toiynes, as we haue rehearsed of *Rotterdam*, and as was aparant at *Wirecht*, where they were determined to haue done ẏ like. Yea let vs se how they haue done at *Amsterdamme*, (which Towne was well affectioned towards them). Let vs consider what good fruites they of *Amsterdam* haue reaped by it. Theis haue first exacted of them a hundreth thousand Gilders, vppon condition to haue no Souldiours after warder, they were the first that were condemned in the payment of the tenth penie, and cõsequently haue discharged and burdened them, that the Towne is in a manner vndone.

But for what respect will they be so fauourable and mercyfull to our Countrie, to graunt this fauour towards vs. It must proceede either in respect of our persons or theirs. As touching their owne persones, they muste be moued to it of nature, or in respect of their gayne and profit. It is notorious that of nature they ar not enclined to mercy or kindnesse to vse such singular grace towardes vs. For if men consider what cruell and inhumain factes they haue

committed in the kingdom of *Naples*, with in the Dukedome of *Milan*, in the *Indies*, and in all partes of these lowe Countries where they are become vanquishers: yea in their own native Countrie, by robbing, murthering, burning, rauishing of wome, cutting of childre out of their mothers bellies and such like abhominable deedes, vnder the colour of rebellion & heresie (which they alwayes alledge for them selues) no occasion wilbe therby found why any man might accompt them pitiful and gratious. Then this their pitie and mercye muste proceed out of a respect for their own gayn. But that can not be, for they think that the Townes which are declined from them, haue so done, bicause they did not vse sufficient crueltie against them, but spared many which now are become their cheefe enemies, according to the prouerbe which their *Vargas* doth vse, *Nimis magna clementia, vis perdidit*: that is to saye, Ouermuch mercy, hath spilled vs. Now therefore they make their reckoning thus, that if they may once againe obtaine to be maisters, they will so tame and yoke the Countrie, that they shal not nede to be at great trauell or charges

This Vargas is the chief of the Inquisitours in the lowe Countries.

to

to kéepe the inhabitants therof vnder their subiection.

Nowe, séeing wée can not expect any mercy or fauour at their hands for respect of their persones: Let vs then sée whither they might be thereunto moued for respect of ours: certainly much lesse. For, besides that the Spanish Nation are of nature lofty and proud, and doe contemne all other Nations, seeking the superioritie ouer all, they do beare a singular and priuie hatred against this our Nation of the lowe countries: which hatred (as commonly it is séene) is bred of a iealousie. For they séeing that our naturall Princes and Lordes, the Dukes of *Brabãt* & Earles of *Holland, &c.* haue matched and allied them selues with *Spanish* women, heires of the kingdomes of *Spaine*, and by that meanes obtayninge the gouernement ouer them, sometimes haue ordeyned Netherlanders to rule in ỹ regiment of *Spayne:* as in the time of the Lord of *Cheures*, and the Cardinal *Adrian* borne in *Hollande* (who afterward was elected Pope of *Rome*) hath ben séene. This hath not a little grœued ỹ Spaniards, that they should be ruled by *Flemings*, (for so thet

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terme all the Nethertanders) And hereout it happened, that within a whyle after that *Charles* the Emperour (of noble memorie) as lawfull heire did ſuccede his Grandfather *Ferdinandus* king of *Spayne*, the whole countrie of *Spaine*, eſpecially the kingdome of *Arragon*, began to rebell againſt *Charles* their naturall Lord, wrongfully preſuming that the ſucceſſion of the kingdome belonged not vnto him, and to that ende ſent for a certaine Duke of *Calabria*, which was of the auncient houſe of *Arragon*, who then laye in priſon, offering him the kingdome: which he denied to accept.

Notwithſtanding, ſhortly after, by the good fortune and policie of the Emperour *Charles*, all thoſe matters were brought to a quiet ende: yit euer ſince that time haue the Spaniards borne an inward grudge & malice againſt our nation, as they haue alwayes well declared when ſoeuer they had any opportunitie, but eſpecially againſt the Nobles of the Countrie, whom they perceyued to be in ſpeciall grace and fauour with the Emperour *Charles* (of moſt famous memorie) and the Kinges Maieſtie that now is, inuēting al maner of meanes

to

to bring these Countries into the displeasure of their Maiesties: which (besides the examples aforesaid) doth euidently appeare by this last proposition of the Emperour *Charles*, who departing out of these Countries towards *Spayne*, leauing the same to his Sonne our soueraigne Lord, saide: hee did sufficiently perceyue, that the *Spaniards* sought by all meanes to incense him, and bring into his hatred his subiects of ỹ lowe Countries, according to their accustomed enuious nature which they bare towardes the countrie, but he should not credit them: but to the contrarie, hold these Countries for speciall recommended, as those who in his most necessitie (aboue all others) had declared towards him most obedient faythefulnesse, and had reserued the Crowne on his head: requesting they would shewe the like towards their yong King, and that hee should minister Iustice to all men, according to reason, defending them against the rigour and violēce of their enemies, without giuing credit to their euill willers and aduersaries, with many other holsome admonitions, which same Lordes presently liuing, heard him speake.

Furthermore, if we consider in what estimation we are with them, we shal sone perceiue whereof this hatred and malice is further sprong. It is manifest, that (by reason of the neighbourhed which we haue with the *Germanes* and other nations addicted to the Gospell) they haue alwayes estemed vs for Lutherians and heretikes. I meane not onely of those that haue cast off the Popes religion, but in generall the whole Nation, perceyuing our people of nature not to be giuen to many ceremonies, and little estæming the Apish toyes and trompperies which they haue learned of the *Sarasins*, *Moores*, and other Heathen people. We see what an Apes play they vse in the time of Lent, in scourging of them selues, with other mockeries, which they vse at our Lordes sepulchre (as they call it.) Which they estæme for ỳ greatest holynesse which may be. Nowe, they perceyuing that our countrie men, yea they that are most bent to the Romish religion, do iesse and mocke at these their dowings, estæming them as childrens toyes and mere hipocrisie. This also doth kindle in their harts an vnquenchable hatred and enuie against vs, that they

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which account themselues so wise and fine witted, should of our Children, Wyues and simple people be esteemed as Hipocrites & superstitious fooles. And so by reason therof, they do esteeme vs all in generall (fewe or none excepted) as Heretikes and Lutherians.

It is also manifest, that thei do hate and persecute the Lutherians more then the Iewes, Turkes or any other transgressors that liue in this worlde: for with the Iewes, Turkes, Moores and Saracins thei vse great familiaritie (for that ỹ most parte of them are spronge out of that race) but suche as they esteeme as Lutherians, they thinke them not worthie to enioye eyther Eyre, Water, Sunne, Mone, nor yit any other Element: yea thei do persecute them by all the meanes they can deuise.

And to looke for any grace or pardon at their handes for respect of our owne persons, (seeing they hate vs aboue all other creatures in the world) it were meere madnesse: yea they think they do God good seruice when soeuer they may cruelly murther any of vs. Besides this, they accompt this whole Countrie as rebellions, saying

playnely, that in all the lowe Countries, there is not one Towne but hath forfeyted to the King their liberties, yea lyfe and goods, and haue purchased vnto them the displeasure and wrath of his Maiestie. The one for denying to receyue the *Spanish* garrisons: The other for neglecting the execution of the Mandamentes & Placcards, in matters of Religion, and not punishing the Heretikes and offenders sufficiently. The third, for that they haue not sufficiently ayded and assisted the Bishops, Inquisitours and Spaniards. Others, for not graunting to the demaund of the x. pennie and other vnreasonable requestes: Some other because they would not abyde the vnsupportable violence of the Souldiours. In fine, there is not one Towne nor Village in all the lowe Countries, which is not to be charged with losse of lyfe & goods: as is to be perceyued out of their owne allegations propounde in the name of ỳ Duke of *Alba*, touching the x. pennie, saying, that such was demaunded to the intent that the Landes and countries which were fallen into the displeasure of the King, might thereby be reduced to his fauour. Therefore

fore we neede not to looke for any grace or fauour at their handes, and all that which they do alledge and say is to bee esteemed for none other then subtile practises, to bring the simple and vnwyse vnder their yoke, and after being Maisters ouer them to vse them at their pleasures, wherein they will haue no such precise regarde to those that haue offended, as to those which hereafter might offend, or with whose goods and possessions they might bee made rich for euer. So that there is none, being of any power, authoritie, or countenance, or hauing any goods, that shall escape free, for he that will stryke a dogge, may soone find a staffe. And vndoutedly, this is ỳ true nature & cõmon vse of all Tyrants that haue subdued any Townes, specially being before reuolted from them, that they neuer thinke their rule nor lyke to be in suertye, vntill such time as they haue made away such as they doe suspecte, might, or would withstande their power.

Therfore all they which by seruitude (helping the Spaniards against their owne allies, contrary to the dutie which they owe to their naturall countrie,) do in any wise

hope therby to gett their grace and fauour, surely shalbe the first that shall find themselues disceyued: for it will not be so precisely asked what they haue offended, as wherin hereafter thei might or could offend. Much lesse maye they loke for any grace or fauour which before haue reuolted and withstode their tiranny, and nowe vppon hope of pardon shall turne and become enmies to their natiue countrie, for such they wil esteeme as double Traytours, of whose truethy they never can be assured, thincking alwayes, that spying their commoditie they will reuolt againe. And what soeuer elles they here proponed touching their grace & fauour, is nothing elles but meere deceipt and subtiltie: so that none (hauing his vnderstanding and right senses) will beleue these promises, but rather with life and goodes, and by all possible meanes, helpe to defende his Countrie and the liberties therof.

And bycause it shall not be thought that this warning doth procede of affection rather then of a trueth, let vs first marke what kind of pardon they do propone, and then what assurance and certaintie they do

offer

offer first they say. That vnto those which returne againe to their obeisance shalbe giuen perpetuall grace and fauour as is giuen to those which alreadie are turned vnto them, being left in their former state, vsing and enioying their goodes and other things as they did before their reuolte. Hereby they giue to vnderstand, that at this present their goodes are deteined as forfet, and that the Duke of *Alba* and the Spaniards do esteeme themselues as Lordes and proprietaries of the liues and goods of the indwellers of the same townes, like as before the reuolting of the townes, they haue diuers times made their vaunt, yet will they now of a special grace & fauour graunt them so much, as that for a while they shal enioy the vse of their goods, vntil such time as they find better opportunity to put in execution that which long hath lyen in their mindes: for by the wordes before recited, is not expressed the reseruation which they keepe to themselues: Namely, that the Rebelles and heritickes and other whome it shall please them, should be punished according to the nature and disposition of their offences. Besides this, no mention is made

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of the nobles & the whole countrie. So as all those that haue any goods, houses or lands, lying without the townes, can by no meanes by the content of this letter be assured, only the inhabitants of the townes should by this meanes be vsed as executors and accusers of the nobles and countrie. Then I pray you marke what kynd of assurance here is giuen. VVhich we in the name and behalfe of the kyng do certainely promise and assure you by these presents, & thought good hereof to aduertise you, to the intent you giue the same further to vnderstād. &c. Assuredly this is a proper assurance, vppon which one marchaunt wil scarce lend another two pence: much lesse whole townes and countries aduenture their liues therby, for what haue they not promised vs in the name and behalfe of the kings maiesty, and haue afterwards broken and infringed the same? as if they might make a iesting stake of the kynges maiestie at their pleasure, which vndoubtedly they doe. Howe often haue they promised these Countries, that they shold not be burthened with garrisons of Souldiours? That the Inquisitiō should not be brought into the cōtry? yea

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how solemply, & with what a countenance, did they promise & bowe to the nobles & country ỹ agrement made in August & confirmed by the Duches of *Parma*. And in these last warres, when haue they at any time kept promise: nay rather whē haue they not opēly & wout any respect broken & violated ỹ same: They had faithfully promised ỹ towne of *Rotterdam*, thei wold but passe through ỹ same without hurting any of the Citizins, & as sone as they were within, they began to murther execrably, as if they had bene a sort of rauening Wolues and murtherers. They had promised the towne of *Mounts* in *Henault* that they would not harme any one Burges, vpon which condition they entred the towne, where they apprehended a great nūber & hong them vp. But I pray you how haue thei delt with the Counties of *Egmont* & of *Horne*? what faire promises had they made vnto them, yea confirmed with the kinges letters & seale, making them beleue al things were forgotten & forgiuen, that the king did fauour & was boūtifull to them, & that nothing should be cōcluded in the counsel without their aduise, with many other like wordes, wherwith they persuaded these good noble men that all things were wel, & so got them into their hands, to the intent to dispatch them away moste miserably, setting

their heads vpon poles, as if they had bene murtherers or traytours? What faith or troth was kept with the Lords of *Barow* & *Montigny*, who were by the Duches of *Parma* & all the Lords & nobles of the country (for pacifying the state therof) so solēply sent in Ambassade to ỹ kings Maiestie? The Turkes and faithlesse heathens which know no God, do esteeme it an abhominable dæd to endammage Embassadours or Cōmissaries, being by all naturall reasons to bee esteemed as holy: Notwithstanding they kept those Lords as prisoners a great while, & in the end pitifully murthered them without law or Justice. After this, what faith haue they kept with their owne souldiours, being vnder the regiment of the Countie *Lodron*, who serued him so long at *Valencien*? Did not the Duke of *Alba* promise & sweare to them, that the offences passed (to wit because they had demaunded to haue their payment) should be forgotten, and therupon gaue them his letters & seale, causing them to be written vp a new, & to take an oth to the king. And that which is more, caused thē to come from *Valencien* to *Antwerpe* vnder conduct there to receyue money, wheras he with his Spanish souldiours enuironed them, and in great nombers caused them to be hanged one after another: the rest which escaped hanging,

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he caused to be chased and driuen away without payment? Who then would seeme to be so mad or bewitched, to attribute credite to any of their promises, except he were weary of his life and welfare? For if they haue in this sort disceyued the most notablest & chiefest Lords of the countrie, if they haue so cruelly without reason murthered the Ambassadours sent by the Gouernãt & nobles to the king: and if they haue not kept promise with those townes which neuer resisted nor altered religion, if they haue bene so vnfaithful to their owne souldiours, through whõ they were become Maisters of the Country. Should we then whom they vtterly hate, (& as they say,) haue rebelled against the king, maintaining (as they alleage) the Lutheriã doctrine, bene their mortall enimies, and effectually declared the same, be kept promise with, then surely the world had nede be altered and newe changed.

But we perceiue euidently by their owne words, that they neuer meane to do it, for they themselues do not offer any assurance for accomplishmẽt of their promise, but onely charge them of *Amsterdam* to giue notice therof to ẏ other townes, & in their behalf to promise this. Seing (saieth the Duke of Alba) that we do promise and assure you by this letter signed by vs

that so it shalbe doon &c. Now wold they haue the towne of *Amsterdam* wholy take vpon hir to do that, which so many townes should hereafter bewayl & lament if they kepe not promise with them. It might afterwards be said: wherfore were thei so folish as to credite the of *Amsterdam* (their enimies) seing the Duke him self made them no promise? In conclusion it is notorious, that these be but mere disceiptes to disceiue the simple people, for the proper words of the letter do declare euidently, that ỳ Duke doth not allure or promise the Townes any thing, so that they cannot charge him with any promise, though he obserue nothing, but onely them of *Amsterdam*, who haue promised on ỳ Dukes behalfe. And thinke you that they of *Amsterdam* haue their excuse to seke? No I warrant you: for they may say, we haue not broken our promise, seing we haue not on our owne behalfe, but in the Dukes name onely promised you. This disceipt was plainely seue by the aboue rehersed souldiours of *Valencien*, for the Duke of *Alba* did make the promise, & the Countie *Lodron* brake it, and yet neither of both thought they cõmitted any offence herein, seing the one was not bound to performe that which he had not promised, & the other would not by his promise bynd the Coũtie of *Lodron*.

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All this notwithstãding, though they should by any maner of othes or bonds, (possible to be deuised) confirme any promise, yit would they think thẽselues in no point bound to performe ỹ same, bicause of their cõmon rule: saying, there is no faith to be kept wt heretiks: as in the cõcel of *Cõstance* (wheras *Iohannes Hus* & *Hierome* of *Prage*, who vpõ the kings oth & letters of safe conduct came thither & were there burnt alive) it was cõcluded for an article of the faith, & all they condemned as heretickes, which kept any promise with hereticks. Besides ỹ, the Pope of *Rome* can at all times absolue thẽ of their othes & promise, as dayly it is vsed, so as they be no more bound to the same, than if they had neuer spoken it. Therfore, no wise people wilbe seduced with such deceitfull lies, but rather for ỹ last drop of their blood, duly & manfully helpe to deliuer their natiue cõtrie from these bloudthirsty Tyrants.

Lastly, they produce a newe trick, seeking to make those afraid which are fearfull & of small courage saying, that they greatly erre which think to withstand the kings power, and that it will fall out euil with them, if they remayne obstinat and wil trie his maiesties power and force. First we haue protested & by these presents doe protest, that we neuer did nor will withstand

the kings power. Likewise are we well assured that our king according to his accustomed clemētie, would not vse his power & force to destroy & bring to ruine his own subiects, which always haue ben so faithfull to him & his auncestors: But these straūge tirants which vnder the kings name goe about to bring our native countrie vnder their subiectiō, those wil we resiste to the vttermost and last man. And as for their power (wherof they so much boast) we nothing feare, neither it needeth not ỳ we tary lōg to trie their force, who haue alredy for ỳ space of .v. or .vi. yères sufficiently shewed the same: so as they now scarce know whither to run or winde thēselues, and therfore come they nowe with this their pardon, perceyuing their force not to preuaile. But before, whē all things wēt as they wished, thei seemed as though thei wold haue deuoured the countrie in one minut. And perceyuing that the straunge souldiours (which serue only for money) ran from their garrisons they thought all had ben finished & done, and so wrote both into *Spayne* & *Duytchland*. But now being come to those that offer resistence, & are determined to defende their liberties with the swoord: it quickly appeared through God his prouidence, what their power was. For then they lost their best Captaynes and Souldiours, and

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the Lord God hath defended our iust cause, and made a scorne of their great power and force. Their old *Spanish* souldiours (the like of whom they thought were not in the world) remayned there slain aswel as ỳ other. And now thei haue tryed that there be men left in the world ỳ will fight for their natiue countrie. So that we (continuing in the feare of God, & perfect vnitie amongst our selues) shall haue no neede to feare the haultie words of those who haue so long beate̅ their braynes against the weakest town in *Holland*, wherin at the first was neither store of vittuals, munitiõ, nor souldiours, (and wher of they had so great an aduantage by reason of the Yse, that they accounted it a Towne of no force) are yit driuen backward, & come to shame and confusion. But now, seeing the water is open, and the towne (through GOD his grace) greatly strengthened and furnished of good souldiours, and al maner of good prouision and munition, think they to make vs afeard with their boasts and threatnings? Nay, nay, good Burgesis, let vs be of good courage, and nothing regarde their bragges, but trust in the Lord our God, who hitherto hath so wonderfully assisted vs, defending our natiue Countrie to the vttermost with our substance & bloud. Let vs manfully stand in defence of our Wyues & children

against

againſt theſe bloudthirſtie enimies of our honors & cõmon weale: to ỹ end direct our liues in all vnion & cõcord, to the intent that we may enioye our old liberties and priuileges, & leaue them behind vs, togither with a good name and fame to our childrens children, our neighbours and friends. Surely truſting in God, that hee will ance turne his wrath from our ſinnes, and behold vs with his mercifull countenance, and reduce our poore oppreſſed coũtrie to his former ſtate and proſperitie. Alſo we truſt that the Kings Ma. our ſoueraing Lord, piteouſly conſidering this inſupportable tirãny & force, of thoſe which ſo proudly abuſe his name & title, to the deſtruction of the coũtrie dayly more and more: wil of his natural clemencie graunt vs, that we being deliuered frõ theſe tyrants & ſuppreſſors, may once effectually ſhew, and apparantly declare the iuſte faith, hartie affection and ſeruitable obedience, which we are readie (euen to the death) to ſhewe to his Maieſtie, which we in all humble maner require of his Maieſtie. Alſo we hartely pray vnto almightie God, that he will graunt his Maieſtie a long and healthful lyfe, & proſperous raigne.

Written at *Delft*, the xii. of March. Anno 1573.

FINIS.